

PHOTOGRAPHY/RAVELL CALL

Dan R. Bagley displays empty colony that normally would be swarming with bees.

## Utah beekeepers being stung by mysterious loss of bees

By Kirk Mitchell  
Deseret News correspondent

11-13-86

OREM — Beekeepers in the Beehive State are beginning to feel the sting of a perplexing phenomenon that has reduced the state's supply of bees.

In the past three years, most Utah beekeepers have lost more than 50 percent of their bees, Utah County bee inspector Joel Wright said. At the same time, they are having to compete with a cheap foreign market that has slashed the wholesale price of honey by 20 percent.

Ed Bianco, state bee inspector, has seen the problem as well, but he estimates average losses at 25 to 30 percent. Larger beekeepers seem to have lost more than the smaller operations that are more or less a hobby, Bianco said.

For the 50 years Dan Bagley of Springville has been working with bees, he said, he has never seen anything similar to what has happened in the most

come up with answers, but no one knows for sure, Bagley said.

"Some beekeepers think it's the weather, but we've had worse conditions before and the bees haven't done so bad. Others blame it on pollution, fog and disease. We've seen it all before and the bees have survived."

Bagley predicted the bees' poor showing through the winter after inspecting his hives last summer. "They were listless. Instead of collecting honey as they had done for as long as I can remember, they just didn't do anything."

Bagley is retired from the beekeeping business now but worries about his son, a fifth-generation beekeeper. Bagley said he wonders if there is a future for him.

Dan R. Bagley, Mapleton, picked up a night job this year to compensate for the loss of bees.

Dan Bagley said he helped a friend into the business this year, but all of the bees died, the 50 hives



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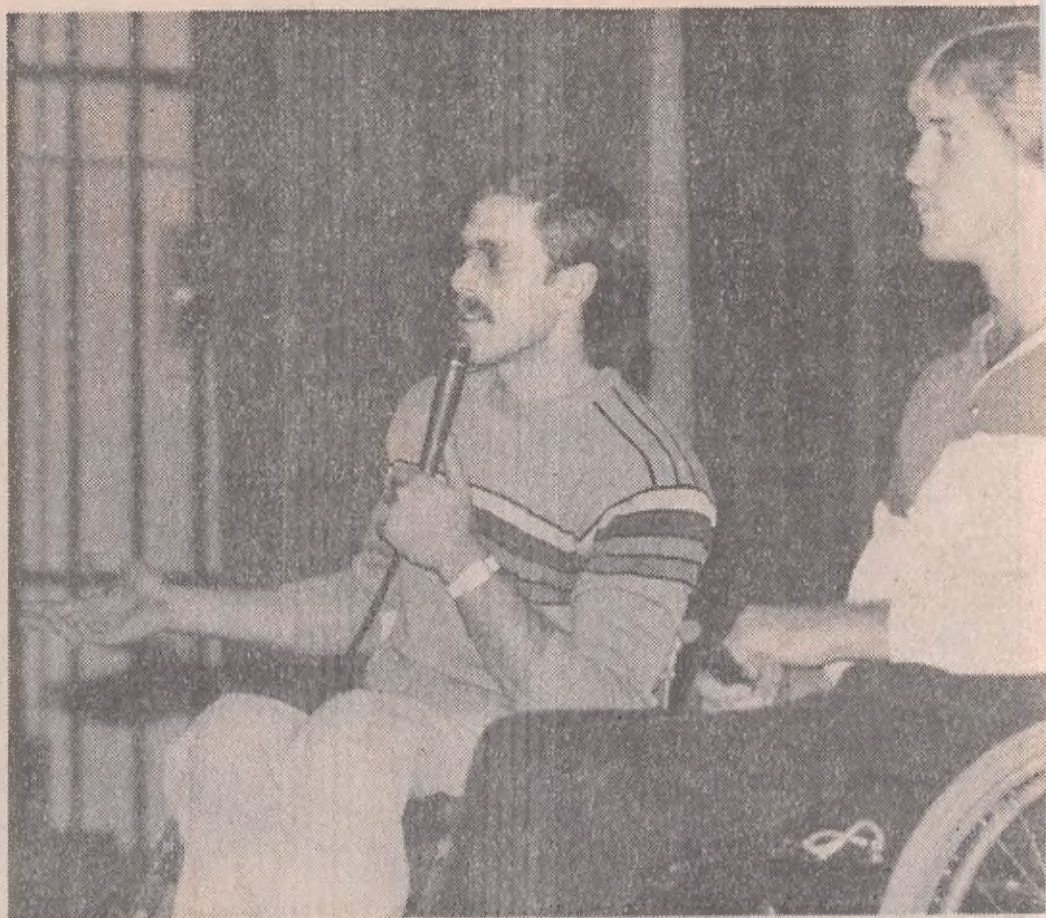
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PHOTOGRAPHY

Corey Burton, left, and Todd Henrie tell students how they became confined to

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### Snow Hill

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## BYU professor will describe chemicals' effects

PROVO — Gary Booth, a Brigham Young University zoology professor, will describe the effects of environmental chemicals on the body in a speech Thursday at 7 p.m. in 446 Martin Building on campus.

Research shows that certain chemicals in the environment cause cancer in animals, such as fish. Humans could consume many of these suspected

carcinogens/mutagens the  
Booth said.

The lecture will also pro-  
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Co-author of a new book  
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